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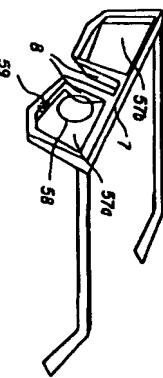
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(51)【要約】

【構成】 重より離れた位置に画像表示画面があるので、ある程度の大きさの入射窓が必要になり、そのため、小型化に課題が生じており、使用者に異物の装着感を与える。

【解決手段】 メガネレンズ57aの一部に液晶パネル59が搭載され、その表示画面より射出される光束がホールドフレーム58によって受光される、人間はホールドフレーム58によって外界と表示画面を同時に、あるいは選択的に何れか一方を観察することができる。

(54)【発明の名称】 メガネディスプレイ

【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 メガネレンズ、メガネフレーム等のメガネの所定の部分に設けられ、前記メガネレンズの所定の領域に向かって表示画像を射出する画像表示手段と、前記メガネレンズの前記所定の領域を通して外界と前記表示画像を観察させる光学手段を備えたことを特徴とするメガネディスプレイ。

【請求項2】 メガネレンズ、メガネフレーム等のメガネの所定の部分に設けられ、前記メガネレンズの所定の領域に向かって表示画像を射出する画像表示手段と、前記メガネレンズの前記所定の領域を通して外界と前記表示画像を観察させる光学手段と、

前記光学手段を備して前記外界と前記表示画像を同時に観察させるシースルー構造、前記外界のみを観察するメガネ構造、および前記表示画像のみを観察させるディスプレイ機能の1つを組合せた構成を備えたことを特徴とするメガネディスプレイ。

【請求項3】 メガネレンズ、メガネフレーム等のメガネの所定の部分に設けられ、前記メガネレンズの所定の領域に向かって表示画像を射出する画像表示手段と、前記メガネレンズの前記所定の領域を通して外界と前記表示画像を観察させる光学手段と、

前記メガネレンズ、前記メガネフレーム等の前記メガネの所定の部分に設けられ、内部音声の出力、あるいは外部音声の入力をを行う音響手段を備えたことを特徴とするメガネディスプレイ。

【請求項4】 前記画像表示手段は、液晶ディスプレイ、ELディスプレイ、プラスマディスプレイ、あるいはマイクロマシン技術によって作製されたマイクロ可動ミラーを用いたディスプレイであり、前記光学手段は、ホログラムである構成の請求項1、2あるいは3記載のメガネディスプレイ。

【請求項5】 前記画像表示手段および前記光学手段は、保護鏡によって被覆されている請求項1、2あるいは3記載のメガネディスプレイ。

【請求項6】 前記被覆手段の1つは、外界の視度を許すあるいは禁止するエレクトロニクミック素子である請求項1、2あるいは3記載のメガネディスプレイ。

【請求項7】 前記被覆手段1つは、画像表示手段と許可あるいは禁止する電気光学素子である請求項1、2あるいは3記載のメガネディスプレイ。

【請求項8】 前記画像表示手段は、画質信号によって変調された光を射出するレーザーあるいはLEDの光源と、前記光を偏向走査する偏向手段と、偏向走査された前記光を受けて画像を表示するスクリーンを含む構成の請求項1、2あるいは3記載のメガネディスプレイ。

【請求項9】 前記画像表示手段は、画質信号によって変調された光を二次元的に射出するレーザーあるいはLEDの2次元光である請求項1、2あるいは3記載のメガネディスプレイ。

【請求項10】 前記メガネレンズは、外界光の反射を防ぐ反射防止膜を被覆されている構成の請求項1、2あるいは3記載のメガネディスプレイ。

【請求項11】 前記メガネレンズは、電気光学効果に基づく焦点可変構造を被覆されている構成の請求項1、2あるいは3記載のメガネレンズ。

【請求項12】 前記メガネフレームは、墨書き乾燥液、ダーリコメートセラチン、フォトレジスト、フォトボリマ一、フォトクロミック、フォトダイクロミック、プラスチック、強誘電体、磁気光学材料、電気光学材料、非晶質半導体、フォトリラクチーフ材料から選択された材料によって形成される構成の請求項4記載のメガネディスプレイ。

【請求項13】 前記メガネフレームは、前記メガネレンズから取り外しができる構成の請求項4記載のメガネディスプレイ。

【発明の詳細な説明】
【0001】 前記メガネフレームは、前記メガネレンズから取り外しができる構成の請求項4記載のメガネディスプレイ。

【0002】 【従来の技術】 人間が装着できる画像表示装置として、例えば、ヘッドマウントディスプレイ(HMD)が述べる。従来のHMDを示している。このHMDはヘルメット107に取り付けられたケース110の中に入射された光路パネル101、バックライト用光源103、凹レンズ104a、および凸レンズ104bを有し、ケース110にミラー105が固定されている。光路パネル101は信号ライン102を介してCRT(図示せず)等に接続されている。

【0003】 以上の構成において、CRTから信号ライン102を介して画像データが光路パネル101に供給されると、光路パネル101からバックライトを受ける光路パネル101の表示画像は凹レンズ104aおよび凸レンズ104bによって拡大された光束108となり、ミラーミラー105で反射された後光束106となって眼111に射入する。従って、眼111は、例えば、前方2mの位置に虚像109として光路パネル101の表示画像を観察することができる。ミラー105をハーフミラーになると、シースルーになって表示画像と外界を同時に観察することができる。

【0004】 この種のHMDは、航空機用機器として高度、速度等を表示するものから個人用シータとして映画、テレビゲーム等を表示するものがあり、例えば、「画像ラボ」No.1,60(1995)、「光技術コンタクト」Vol.1,33, No.1,1995」、「光技術コンタクト」Vol.1,33, No.5」、「光技術コンタクト」Vol.1,33, No.5」。

成される。同心円に並んだ透鏡電板82aに選択的に電圧を印加すると、E.O効果を用いた焦点可変効果が得られる。従って、メガネ加工が不要な近眼鏡、老眼鏡を乗ねたメガネディスプレイを提供できる。

[0037] [発明の効果] 以上説明した通り、本発明のメガネディスプレイによると、各種部ユニットを小型化したので、メガネ内蔵することができる。従って、使用者は異物の装着感を有しないで使用することができる。用途としては、例えば、コンピュータのディスプレイ、プロンプタ、車両用、航空機用のヘッドアップディスプレイ、ヘッドマウントディスプレイとして使用することができます。

[図面の簡単な説明]

- (c) 従来のシースルー型HMDを示す説明図
[符号の説明]
1, ディスプレイ
4, 眼球
7, メガネフレーム
8, パット
16, 19, 24, ミラー
10 ハーフミラー
18, 23, ビーム
20, 2 ピーム
2, 25, レンズ
21, コリメータレンズ
乾板
3, 0, 凸レンズ
3, 2, 物体
3, 3, 正立像
物点
36, 38, 参照光
4, 0, 41, 光源
4, 0a, 赤光波
球面波面
4, 3, 物体
4, 4, 像
5, 8, ホログラム
4, 5, 実像
参照光源
5, 6, 保護膜
5, 7b, メガネレンズ
5, 8, ホログラム
10 液晶パネル
7, 2, 偏向器
7, 3, 7, 5
レーザ光路
7, 4, 虹光スクリーン
7, 5, 反射ミラー
8, 2, 焦点可変レンズ
8, 2a, 透明電極
10, 1, 液晶パネル
信号ライン
10, 3, ハックライト用光源
10, 4
a, 凹レンズ
10, 4b, 凸レンズ
ミラー
10, 6, 10, 8, 11, 16, 光束
10, 9
b, 虹膜
11, 0, ケース
11, 7, 自由曲面ブリ
ズム11, 3, 11, 4, 反射面
8, a, 11, 8, b, 光束

11
[図1] 特開平9-185009
[図2]

[図5]

[図2]

[図5]

庄を印加すると、E.O効果を用いた焦点可変効果が得られる。従って、メガネ加工が不要な近眼鏡、老眼鏡を乗ねたメガネディスプレイを提供できる。

[0037] [発明の効果] 以上説明した通り、本発明のメガネディスプレイによると、各種部ユニットを小型化したので、メガネ内蔵することができる。従って、使用者は異物の装着感を有しないで使用することができる。用途としては、例えば、コンピュータのディスプレイ、プロンプタ、車両用、航空機用のヘッドアップディスプレイ、ヘッドマウントディスプレイとして使用することができます。

[図面の簡単な説明]

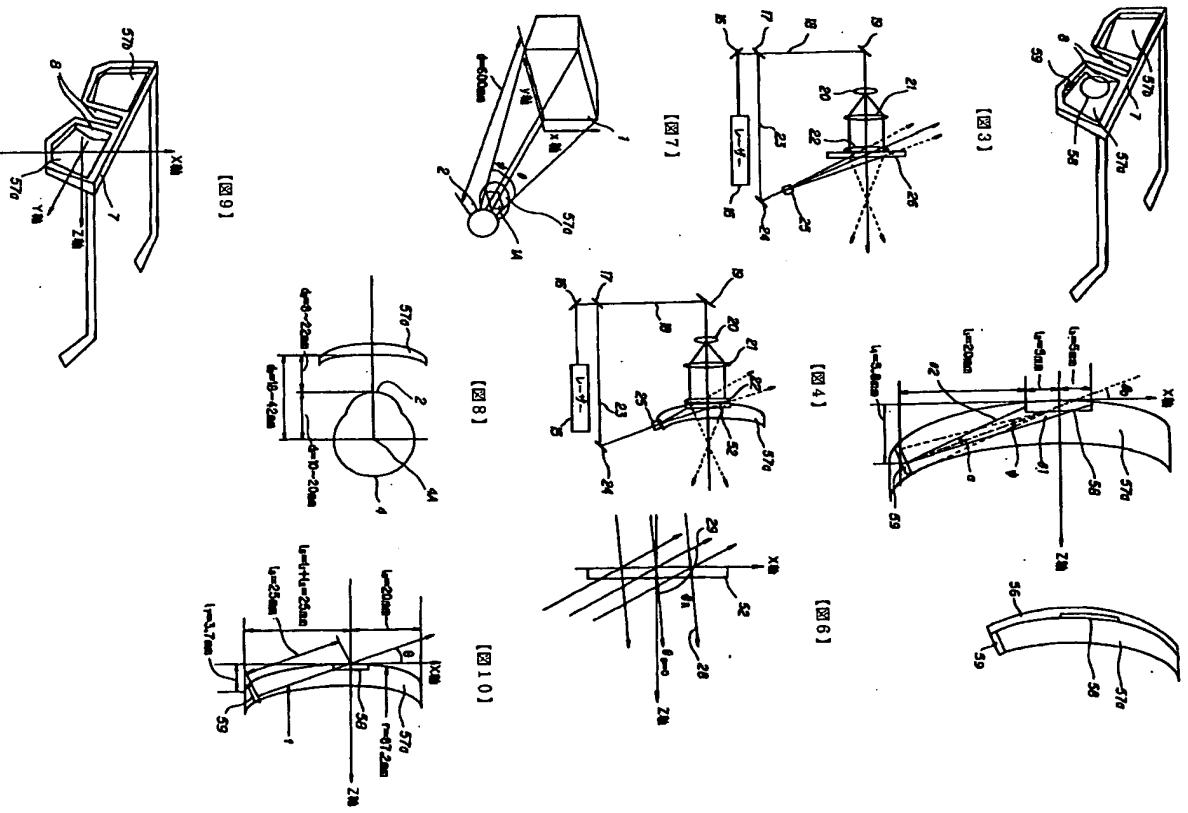
- (c) 従来のシースルー型HMDを示す説明図
[符号の説明]
1, ディスプレイ
4, 眼球
7, メガネフレーム
8, パット
16, 19, 24, ミラー
10 ハーフミラー
18, 23, ビーム
20, 2 ピーム
2, 25, レンズ
21, コリメータレンズ
乾板
3, 0, 凸レンズ
3, 2, 物体
3, 3, 正立像
物点
36, 38, 参照光
4, 0, 41, 光源
4, 0a, 赤光波
球面波面
4, 3, 物体
4, 4, 像
5, 8, ホログラム
4, 5, 実像
参照光源
5, 6, 保護膜
5, 7b, メガネレンズ
5, 8, ホログラム
10 液晶パネル
7, 2, 偏向器
7, 3, 7, 5
レーザ光路
7, 4, 虹光スクリーン
7, 5, 反射ミラー
8, 2, 焦点可変レンズ
8, 2a, 透明電極
10, 1, 液晶パネル
信号ライン
10, 3, ハックライト用光源
10, 4
a, 凹レンズ
10, 4b, 凸レンズ
ミラー
10, 6, 10, 8, 11, 16, 光束
10, 9
b, 虹膜
11, 0, ケース
11, 7, 自由曲面ブリ
ズム11, 3, 11, 4, 反射面
8, a, 11, 8, b, 光束

11
[図1] 特開平9-185009
[図2]

[図5]

[図2]

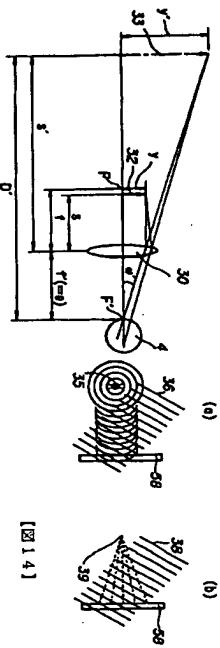
[図5]



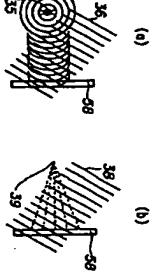
(1)

特許平9-185009

[図1.1]



[図1.2]



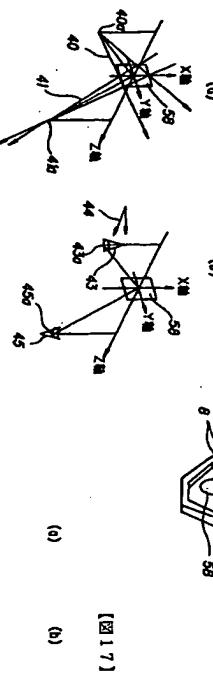
[図2.0]



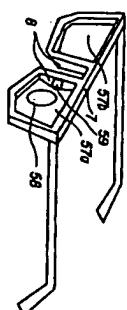
(1)

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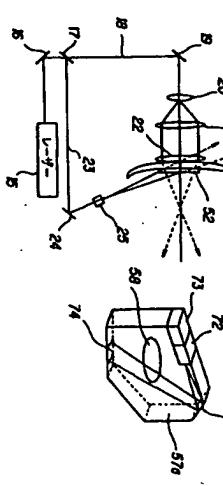
[図1.3]



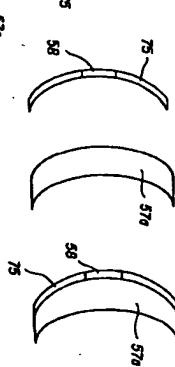
[図1.4]



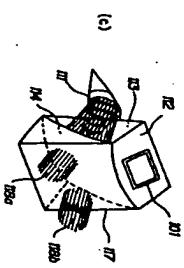
[図1.5]



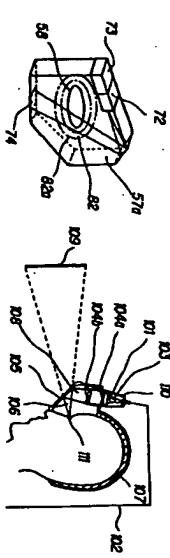
[図1.6]



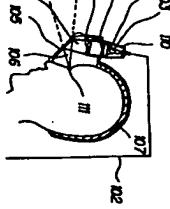
[図1.7]



[図1.8]



[図1.9]



**A Translation of Substantially the Whole of
Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. H9-185009
(Laid-Open on July 15, 1997)**

5 [Title of the Invention]

Glasses-type Display

[Abstract]

[Object] In conventional glasses-type displays, image display surfaces 10 are disposed at distant from observer's eyes, and therefore they require entrance pupils having a certain size. Therefore, there is a limitation in miniaturizing the displays and is felt by the user as uncomfortable.

[Features] On a part of a spectacle lens 57a, a liquid crystal panel 59 is equipped, and light beams emitted from a displayed image are received by a 15 hologram 58. Owing to the hologram 58, an observer can simultaneously observe the outside view and the displayed image, or selectively observe one of them.

[Claims]

[Claim 1] A glasses-type display comprising:
20 an image display means that is disposed in a predetermined area of glasses such as a spectacle lens or a rim, and that outputs a displayed image toward a predetermined region on the spectacle lens; and

an optical means that permits an observer to observe the displayed image and outside through the predetermined region of the spectacle lens.

[Claim 2] A glasses-type display comprising:
25 an image display means that is disposed in a predetermined area of glasses such as a spectacle lens or a rim, and that outputs a displayed image toward a predetermined region on the spectacle lens;

an optical means that permits an observer to observe the displayed image 30 and outside through the predetermined region of the spectacle lens; and
a control means, while controlling the optical means, that selects one from

three following functions, a see-through function for observing the outside and the displayed image simultaneously, a glasses function for observing only the outside, and a display function for observing only the displayed image.

[Claim 3] A glasses-type display comprising:

5 an image display means that is disposed in a predetermined area of glasses such as a spectacle lens or a rim, and that outputs a displayed image toward a predetermined region on the spectacle lens;

an optical means that permits an observer to observe the displayed image and outside through the predetermined region of the spectacle lens; and

10 an audio means that is disposed in a predetermined area of the spectacle lens, the rim, or the like, and that outputs internal sound and inputs external sound.

[Claim 4] A glasses-type display as claimed in claims 1, 2, or 3,

wherein the image display means is realized as a liquid crystal display, an EL display, a plasma display, or a display using a micro-variable mirror made by a 15 micromachining method.

[Claim 5] A glasses-type display as claimed in claims 1, 2, or 3,

wherein the image display means and the optical means are coated with a protective coat.

[Claim 6] A glasses-type display as claimed in claims 1, 2, or 3,

20 wherein one of the control means is realized as an electrochromic element that permits or prohibits observation of outside.

[Claim 7] A glasses-type display as claimed in claims 1, 2, or 3,

wherein one of the control means is realized as an electro-optic element that permits or prohibits display of images.

25 [Claim 8] A glasses-type display as claimed in claims 1, 2, or 3,

wherein the image display means is realized as a light source such as a laser or an LED that emits light modulated by an image signal, a deflecting means that performs deflective scanning of the light, and a screen that displays images by receiving the light underwent deflective scanning.

30 [Claim 9] A glasses-type display as claimed in claims 1, 2, or 3,

wherein the image display means is realized as a light source formed as a two-dimensional array of lasers or LEDs that two-dimensionally emits light modulated by an image signal.

[Claim 10] A glasses-type display as claimed in claims 1, 2, or 3,
5 wherein the spectacle lens is coated with an antireflection coat for preventing reflection of external light.

[Claim 11] A glasses-type display as claimed in claims 1, 2, or 3,
wherein the spectacle lens is coated with a variable-focal coat based on electro-optical effect.

10 [Claim 12] A glasses-type display as claimed in claim 4,
wherein the hologram is formed of a material selected from a silver photographic dry plate, dichromate gelatin, a photoresistive material, photopolymer, a photochromic material, a photodichromic material, plastic, a ferroelectric substance, a magneto-optical material, an electro-optical material, an
15 amorphous semiconductor, or a photorefractive material.

[Claim 13] A glasses-type display as claimed in claim 4,
wherein the hologram is dismountable from the spectacle lens.

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

20 [0001]

[Field of the Invention]

The present invention relates to a glasses-type display, and particularly to a glasses-type display which enables an observer to observe, through a spectacle lens, a displayed image and an outside view simultaneously.

25

[Prior Art]

[0002]

As a wearable image display apparatus, there is, for example, a head-mounted display (HMD). Fig. 19 shows a conventional HMD disclosed in
30 Japanese Laid-Open Patent Application No. H4-34512. This HMD includes a

liquid crystal panel 101 held in a case 110 attached to a helmet 107, a light source 103 for emitting backlight, a concave lens 104a, and a convex lens 104b. And, to the case 110, a mirror 105 is fixed. Through a signal line 102, the liquid crystal panel 101 is connected to a CRT (not shown).

5 [0003]

In this construction, when image data is fed to the liquid crystal panel 101 from the CRT through the signal line 102, the displayed image on the liquid crystal panel 101 receiving backlight from the light source 103 becomes a light beam 108 that is enlarged by the concave lens 104a and the convex lens 104b, after being 10 reflected on the mirror 105, the light beam 108 becomes a light beam 106, and then enters an observer's eye 111. Thus, the observer's eye 111 can observe the image displayed on the liquid crystal panel 101 as a virtual image 109 at the point, for example, two meters ahead thereof. By using a half mirror instead of the mirror 105, a see-through function is provided and this makes it possible to observe the 15 displayed image and the outside view simultaneously.

[0004]

There are various HMDs of this type, for example, a display used in an aircraft for displaying flight information including its altitude and speed, and a display for use in a personal theater for displaying movies, TV games, and the like.

20 And such examples are described in:

Image Labo No. 1,60, published in 1995;

Optical Technology Contact Vol. 33 No. 1,5, published in 1995;

Optical Technology Contact Vol. 33 No. 1, 25, published in 1995; and

25 United States Patent No. 4,902,083

Among many, the HMD disclosed in United States Patent No. 4,902,083 is small in size and light in weight. However, most of the conventional HMDs have around 2 kg in their weight, and therefore they are not suited for use as portable 30 apparatuses.

[0005]

Figs. 20(a) to 20(c) show the HMDs presented during the "three-dimensional image conference" held in July 1995. Fig. 20(a) shows an HMD that is composed of a liquid crystal panel 101 mounted on a top face of a free curved prism 112 having a first and a second reflecting surface 113 and 114. An image displayed on the liquid crystal panel 101 enters an observer's eye 111 upon being reflected from the first and second reflecting surfaces 113 and 114. As shown in Fig. 20(b), if a half mirror is used as the reflecting surface 114 of the free curved prism 112, it becomes see-through and this makes it possible to observe the displayed image and the outside view simultaneously. However, a light beam 116 will undesirably travel upward. Fig. 20(c) shows an HMD solving the problem mentioned above, in which a second free curved prism 117 is incorporated in the free curved prism 112 shown in Figs. 20(a) and 20(b). As indicated by light beams 118a and 118b, this makes it possible to realize an HMD having a see-through function. In addition, this helps reduce the weight and the size of the display, and therefore it enables a user to wear it, for example, over a pair of eyeglasses.

[0006]**[Problems to be Solved by the Invention]**

However, in the conventional glasses-type displays, image display surfaces are disposed at distant from observer's eyes, and this requires an entrance pupil having a certain size. Therefore, there is a limitation in miniaturizing the displays and this makes it impossible to rid the observer of a feeling that he/she is wearing a foreign substance.

[0007]

An object of the present invention is to provide a glasses-type display which is miniaturized to the extent that a user is free from the feeling of wearing it.

[0008]**[Means for Solving the Problem]**

To achieve the above object, according to the present invention, a glasses-type display comprising: an image display means that is disposed in a

predetermined area of eyeglasses such as a spectacle lens or a rim, and that outputs a displayed image toward a predetermined region on the spectacle lens; and an optical means that permits an observer to observe the displayed image and the outside through the predetermined region of the spectacle lens.

5 [0009]

[Embodiments of the Invention]

Fig. 1 shows a glasses-type display of a first embodiment of the present invention, in which a spectacle lens 57a is fitted in a rim 7 having a pad 8. The 10 spectacle lens 57a is provided with a liquid crystal panel 59 as an image information source, and a hologram 58 as a see-through means that receives the image displayed on the liquid crystal panel 59 and that permits the person wearing the glasses to observe the image. The liquid crystal panel 59 is illuminated by backlight from behind thereof, but this is not shown in the figure. As an image 15 information source, there are several displays such as an EL display, a plasma display, and a display using a micro-variable mirror made by a micromachining method. Among all, a laser display in which light beams thereof are deflected by an AO-deflector is favorable. Not shown in the figure; however, between the hologram 58 and the outside, an electrochromic substance such as WO_3 , Al_2O_3 , CrO_3 , Ta_2O_5 , or ZrO_2 is provided in a form of a dielectric thin film or a solid 20 electrolyte. And the film is sandwiched by transparent electrodes (not shown). By being applied a voltage, the electrochromic element will turn from transparent to colored. The liquid crystal panel 59 and the hologram 58 are fitted also on the spectacle lens 57b, but not shown in the figure. And on an appropriate place of the rim 7, an audio input/output device is arranged for inputting the user's voice 25 and outputting the recorded sound.

[0010]

Fig. 2 illustrates the glasses-type display shown in Fig. 1 in more detail. The light beam emitted from the displayed image on the liquid crystal panel 59 travels in the direction $\theta_0 = 13^\circ$ relative to the X-axis (103° relative to the Z-axis),

then is turned its direction in the positive direction of the Z-axis by the hologram 58, and enters an observer's eye. In this case, a virtual image of the displayed image can be formed in a predetermined position in the negative direction of the Z-axis. As mentioned above, the angle formed between a line extending from the center of the liquid crystal panel 59 in the spectacle lens 57a to the center of the hologram 58 and the X-axis is assumed to be 13° . As shown in the figure, if it is assumed that $l_1 + l_2 = 25$ mm, the distance l_4 between the center of the liquid crystal panel 59 and the X-axis should be 5.8 mm. From the numerical relationship in the figure, it is defined that θ_1 be 10.9° and θ_2 be 16.2° . Hence, the angle of aperture α becomes 5.3° . The distance between the center of the liquid crystal panel 59 and that of the hologram 58 is 25.7 mm. As described latter, the size of the liquid crystal panel 59 is a 4 millimeters of square, and hence the angle of view ϕ becomes 9° . Therefore, if the hologram 58 functions as a lens element, it is possible to handle a paraxial ray.

15 [0011]

Fig. 3 shows the process for manufacturing the hologram 58 by applying a convergent wave and a divergent wave to a photographic dry plate 26. The beam exited from a laser 15, upon being turned its direction by a mirror 19, is split into two beams by a half mirror 17. Upon being turned its direction by the mirror 19, one of the split beams 18 is converted into a divergent wave by a magnifying lens 20. Then, the diameter of the beam is widened to the extent of the diameter of the aperture of the hologram, and is converted into a plane wave through a collimator lens 21. The beam 18 travels along the Z-axis, and, right in front of the dry plate 26, is converted into a convergent wave by a lens 22. Here, the focal distance of the convergent wave is assumed to be 25 mm. The other beam 23 is turned its direction by a mirror 24, and then travels in the direction inclined to the X-axis at 13° . And the beam 23 is converted into a divergent wave through a lens 25. The focal distance of the divergent wave is assumed to be 25 mm. The beam 18 and the beam 23 form interference fringes on the dry plate 26. The interference fringes formed on the dry plate 26 record a hologram after a developing step. If the image

information source is disposed apart from the hologram by the distance equal to the focal distance of the divergent wave, and the distance between the eyes and the glasses is determined to be equal to or shorter than the focal distance (equivalent to the focal distance of the convergent wave), it is possible to provide the hologram 5 with a function similar to that of a loupe. Therefore, among the light beams exited from the image information source, only a first-ordered diffractive light beam is directed to the eye's direction through the hologram, and this permits observation of a virtual image of the displayed image in the negative direction of the Z-axis at the distance of distinct vision (= -250 mm). Here, the method for manufacturing 10 a hologram by using a convergent and a divergent wave is explained; however, it is possible to manufacture a hologram by using a plane and a divergent wave.

[0012]

Fig. 4 is a diagram illustrating the process in which the method for manufacturing a hologram as shown in Fig. 3 is applied to the spectacle lens 57a. 15 On the spectacle lens 57a, the position corresponds to the position of the dry plate 26 in Fig. 3 is covered with a photosensitive material 52, and on the photosensitive material 52, the hologram 58 as shown in Figs. 1 and 2 is formed.

[0013]

Fig. 5 shows a step in which the hologram 58 and the spectacle lens 57a are 20 covered with a transparent protective coat 56 for protecting the hologram 58. After this step, the liquid crystal panel 59 is adhered to the end face of the spectacle lens 57a, and then is fitted into the rim 7. Here, it is possible to fill the space between the liquid crystal panel 59 and the end face of the spectacle lens 57a 25 with liquid having a predetermined refractive index. Thereby, the light beam conveying the displayed image exited from the liquid crystal panel 59 can reach the hologram 58 without being affected by the end face of the spectacle lens 57a.

[0014]

Fig. 6 is a diagram illustrating the relationship between the visibility of the outside and the grid interval of the interference fringes of the hologram 58.

If a recording medium forms a volume hologram, the interval d of the interference fringes measured at right angle relative to the interference fringes surface and the spatial frequency f_s will satisfy the following condition.

$$5 \quad d = \left| \frac{\lambda}{2\sin(\frac{\theta_R - \theta_O}{2})} \right| = \frac{1}{f}$$

$$d_R = \left| \frac{\lambda}{2\sin^2(\frac{\theta_R - \theta_O}{2})} \right|$$

[0016]

When an He-Ne laser having a wavelength of 632.8 nm is used and the coordinate system is set as shown in Fig. 6, θ_R becomes 103° and $\sin \theta_o$ becomes 0° . As a result, d_R in the X-axis direction becomes 0.539 μm , and the spatial frequency f becomes 2424 lines/mm.

[0017]

A human eye does not have the resolving power to recognize the interference fringes on the spectacle lens, and this permits sufficient observation of the image information of the outside view. It is desirable that the resolution of the photosensitive material 52 needed to record the hologram 58 be grater than 2500 lines/mm. The light source used for recording the hologram is required to have high coherence, and therefore a laser is suited. However, it does not necessarily have to be coherent light, and a single color light source, for example, a bright line such as a mercury lamp or a xenon lamp can be used. As an example of a photosensitive material used for recording the hologram, a silver photographic dry plate can be cited. It is also possible to use dichromate gelatin, a photoresistive material, photopolymer, a photochromic material, a photodichromic material, plastics such as thermoplastic, a ferroelectric substance, a magneto-optical material, an electro-optical material, an amorphous semiconductor, or a photorefractive

material. Recording of the hologram can be performed not only in a static manner but also in a dynamic manner. In other words, by the use of electro-optical effect, it is possible to form a pattern of refractive indices by applying a voltage to a pattern of electrodes that is formed based on a CGH (computer graphics hologram 5 interference fringes).

[0018]

Explained above is the case in which a glasses-type display having a see-through function is used. From now on, the case in which only the outside is observed with this glasses-type display will be explained. When the power supply 10 is cut off, the liquid crystal panel 59 stops outputting a specific wavelength conveying a displayed image. Here, even if the screen of the liquid crystal panel 59 is colored, the exiting light travels in the direction of 0-ordered diffraction, and therefore a human eye will recognize only the information of the outside view.

[0019]

15 On the other hand, when a user observes only the displayed image, by applying a voltage to the electrochromic film disposed between the hologram 58 and the outside with the transparent electrodes sandwiching the film, it is possible to color the film in a dark color such as black. Here, the driving voltage is 3V, and the power supply is incorporated in the glasses.

20 [0020]

Next, several studies carried by the inventor of the present invention and the results will be explained in detail.

[0021]

Fig. 7 is a diagram illustrating the condition in which a human is observing a 25 15-inch of workstation or computer display 1 through the spectacle lens 57a. If the resolution is determined to be, for example, 1024×1280 spots, its aspect ratio (x, y) will be 4 : 5. Here, the distance d between the human pupil 2 and the display 1 is determined to be 60 cm. The diameter of a human pupil is 2 to 8 mm. If the size of the display 1 is determined to be 15 inches (37.5 cm across the 30 corners), its longitudinal length becomes 23.4 cm and its horizontal length becomes

29.3 cm. If the diameter of a human pupil is assumed to be 5 mm, the angle of view ϕ in the X-axis direction will be around 23° , and the angle of view θ in the Y-axis direction will be around 27° .

[0022]

5 Fig. 8 is a diagram illustrating the relationship between a rotation center 4A of an observer's eyeball 4 and a spectacle lens 57a. The distance d_1 between the rotation center 4A of the observer's eyeball 4 and a pupil 2 falls within a range from 10 to 20 mm. When a human is wearing the glasses, the distance d_2 between the pupil 2 and the spectacle lens 57a is in a range from 8 to 22 mm. Therefore, the
10 following equation will be fulfilled: $d_3 = d_1 + d_2 = 18$ to 42 mm. Here, the distance d_2 between the pupil 2 and the spectacle lens 57a is assumed to be around 15 mm.
15 If the angles of view ϕ and θ are assumed to be fixed when a human observes the workstation, the size of a display 1A (Fig. 7) projected on the spectacle lens 57a should be around 11 mm in the longitudinal direction, and around 12 mm in the horizontal direction. Thus, on the spectacle lens 57a, the display 1 on the workstation falls in the area 1A having the size around 1 cm of square. If the display 1 functioning as an image information source falls in the area 1A on the spectacle lens 57a, the entrance pupil 2 for observing the displayed image can be small. Furthermore, a user can wear the glasses in a natural manner without being
20 conscious thereto.

[0023]

Fig. 9 shows a pair of glasses corresponding to Fig. 1. The pair of glasses is composed of spectacle lenses 57a and 57b, a rim 7, and a pad 8. Fig. 10 shows a spectacle lens 57a corresponding to Fig. 2. Here, the Z-axis is taken along the optical axis, and the X-axis is taken along the perpendicular direction relative to the optical axis. It is determined that the distance l_6 between the horizontal surface (Z-axis) and the top of the spectacle lens 57a to be, for example, around 20 mm. It is also determined that the distance l_5 between the horizontal surface (Z-axis) and the bottom of the spectacle lens 57a to be 25 mm. If an Ostwald-type
25 lens is used, the radius of curvature of the front surface of the spectacle lens 57a is
30

87.2 mm. Hence, the distance l_1 , between the X-axis and the spectacle lens 57a in the lower portion of the spectacle lens 57a will become 3.7 mm. If it is determined that the aperture of the hologram 58 to be 10 mm (circle with a radius of 5 mm), the distance l_2 between the center of the hologram 58 and the center of the liquid crystal panel 59 to be 25 mm, the size of the liquid crystal panel to be 4 mm \times 4 mm, and the thickness of the spectacle lens 57a to be 5 mm, by setting the angle θ formed between the X-axis and the line extending from the center of the liquid crystal panel to the center of the hologram 58 to be 12.8° , it is possible to incorporate the liquid crystal panel 59 in the spectacle lens 57a.

10 [0024]

On the other hand, if it is desired to set the angle formed between the line extending from the center of the hologram 58 to the center of the liquid crystal panel 59 and the X-axis to be 12.8° or wider, it is recommended that the liquid crystal panel 59 is incorporated in a pad 8. In both cases, within the light beams exited from the liquid crystal panel 59, if the hologram 58 has a function as a lens element, 0-ordered diffractive light travels in the direction inclined to the X-axis at 13° , but first-ordered diffractive light is tuned its direction by the interference fringes on the hologram 58 and travels in the positive direction of the Z-axis, this permits forming a virtual image in the negative direction of the Z-axis where the image can be observed.

[0025]

Fig. 11 shows the principle of a loupe. As a loupe, a convex lens 30 whose focal distance is f is used, and an enlarged erected virtual image 33 of a small object 32 located toward the lens side from the front focal point F is observed by an observer's eye 4. The distances from the lens 30 to the object side focal point F and to the image side focal point are expressed as f and f' , the distances from the lens 30 to the object 32 and to the image 33 are expressed as s and s' , the heights of the object 32 and the image 33 are expressed as y and y' , and the distances from the lens 30 to the image 33 and from the lens 30 to the observer's eye 4 are expressed as e and $D' (= e - s')$. The paraxial image formation relationship will be given by

$$\frac{1}{s'} - \frac{1}{s} = \frac{1}{f'}$$

$$\frac{y'}{y} = \frac{s'}{s}$$

- 5 If the angle of view of the image 33 is expressed as ω' , the following formula holds:

$$\tan \omega' = \frac{y'}{D'} = \frac{y'}{f' - s'}$$

- 10 On the other hand, if the angle of view is expressed as ω when the object is observed directly without using the loupe at the distance of the distinct vision D (= 250 mm), the following formula holds:

$$\tan \omega = \frac{y}{D}$$

- 15 Hence, the angular magnification Γ will be given by

$$\Gamma = \frac{\tan \omega'}{\tan \omega} = \frac{y' D}{y D} = \frac{D(f' - s')}{f'(e - s')} = \frac{D}{f'} \frac{\frac{f'}{s'} - 1}{\frac{e}{s'} - 1}$$

- Here, it is determined that the image to be observed in a natural manner, for example, without straining the observer's eye 4. The distance from the lens 30 to the observer's eye 4 is determined to be substantially equal to the distance from the lens 30 to the image side of focal point F'. The refractive power of the observer's eye 4 is infinitely adjusted, and therefore if the following equations are substituted in the formula defining the angular magnification Γ : $D' = -\infty$, $s' = -\infty$, and $D =$

250 mm, the following equation holds:

$$\Gamma = \frac{250}{f'}$$

5 wherein the formula $s = -f'$ is fulfilled, and therefore this corresponds to the case in which the object 32 is disposed on the front side focal point F of the convex lens 30. For example, if it is determined that $f = 25$ mm ($= f'$), the angular magnification Γ becomes 10. It is meaningless to convert this number directly to the longitudinal magnification. The number 10 means that the resolution at the 10 distance of the distinct vision becomes from 1 mm to 0.1 mm, in other words, the resolving power is strengthen by 10 times. Even if the distance between the convex lens 30 and the observer's eye 4 is shorter than that between the convex lens 30 and the image side focal point F', owing to the power of the eye for adjusting its refractive power, it is possible to observe the virtual image 33 in the 15 same manner.

[0026]

The spatial frequency f recognizable by a human eye depends on the luminance, the pupil diameter, and others. If an observer's eye is narrowed, a focal point is made to be more distant, or a pupil diameter is made to be longer, the 20 range of the spatial frequency recognizable by a human eye becomes wide. According to "Optical Technology Handbook," by Hiroshi Kubota, by Asakura Shoten, p744, "the spatial frequency f recognizable by a human eye has its peak at 15 lines/mm." Also, according to "Optics. Science Library Physics=9," by Kazumi

Murata, by Science, p211, "the MTF including visual sense has a band pass filter's character having its peak around 0.05 lines/minute, and its cut-off frequency is around 1 line/minute." Based on this, the cut-off frequency at the distance of the distinct vision (250 mm) is calculated to be 14 lines /mm. Hence, the minimum 5 interval recognizable by a human eye is 67 μm .

[0027]

Here, the minimum dots recognizable by a human eye is assumed to be 14 spots/mm. Since the angular magnification is 10, by using a loupe, the minimum recognizable dots becomes 140 spots/mm. If a display such as the above-10 mentioned liquid crystal panel 59 meets the VGA's standard (640×480 spots), the size thereof becomes $4.6 \text{ mm} \times 3.4 \text{ mm}$. In this case, the size of spot is around 7 μm , and if resolution of this extent is needed, it is possible to display a two-dimensional image by scanning a laser.

[0028]

Fig. 12(a) shows the condition of a wave surface when a point is recorded on 15 a hologram. The hologram 58 is a photograph recording the interference fringes occurring between the wave surface of a light beam reflected by an object and a plane wave that is called as a reference wave 36 (or light emitted from a point light source). Light exited from an object point 35 has a wave surface comprising 20 concentric circles, and forms interference fringes on the hologram 58 by interfering with the reference wave 36 of the plane wave that is applied thereto obliquely from upward.

[0029]

Fig. 12(b) illustrates reproduction of an image. The hologram 58 is 25 illuminated by reference light 38 having the same plane wave of the reference light 36 used for recording a point on the hologram 58. The angle of diffraction depends on the interval between the recorded interference fringes. When the directions in which the diffracted light beams travel are traced, it seems as if the light beams were emitted from a point 39 corresponding to the object point 35

be three-dimensionally reproduced by being resolved into each object point. By the use of this imaging effect, it is possible to use the hologram 58 as a lens element.

[0030]

Figs. 13(a) and 13(b) also illustrate the manufacturing process of the 5 hologram 58 and its reproduction step. At Fig. 13(a), as a wave surface of object light, an emissive spherical wave surface 40 emitted from a point light source 40a is used, and, as reference light, a spherical wave surface 41 converging on a point 41a is used for manufacturing the hologram 58. At Fig. 13(b), an object 43 is placed near an object point light source 43a, and, when single color light 44 illuminates 10 the object 43, a real image 45 of the object 43 is formed near a reference light source 45a. This image formation relationship can be dealt with the same manner as a geometrical optics in a decentered optical system connecting a middle point between a divergent wave and a convergent wave with a center of a hologram.

[0031]

15 Fig. 14 shows a glasses-type display of a second embodiment of the present invention. In the first embodiment, the liquid crystal panel 59 is mounted on the spectacle lenses 57a and 57b; however, a liquid crystal panel 59 is buried in a pad 8 of a rim 7 in the second embodiment. In other respect, the construction here is the same as the first embodiment. The hologram 58 and the liquid crystal panel 20 59 are covered with an unillustrated protective film.

[0032]

Fig. 15 shows the manufacturing process of the hologram 58 which is common to Fig. 4, and therefore the overlapping explanation is omitted here. However, the photo sensitive material 52 is applied to the opposite side of the lens 25 57a, here.

[0033]

Fig. 16 shows a glasses-type display of a third embodiment of the present invention. This glasses-type display is composed of a laser light source 73 mounted on a spectacle lens 57a, a deflector 72 using an acoustooptic (AO) element, 30 a reflecting mirror 75 using one surface of the spectacle lens 57a, a fluorescent

a reflecting mirror 75 using one surface of the spectacle lens 57a, a fluorescent screen 74 (or an ordinary screen) displaying an image by receiving a laser beam, and a hologram 58. These elements may be fitted on the other spectacle lens (not shown). The optical path length between the laser light source 73 and the 5 fluorescent screen 74 is around 12 cm, and if TeO_2 is used as the deflector 72, a deflection angle of 2° is obtained, and hence the resolving point becomes 1600 lines. If the deflector 72 is two-dimensional, the size of the fluorescent screen 74 becomes 41 mm \times 41 mm, and hence its resolution becomes 1600×1600 .

[0034]

10 In the above construction, a laser beam modulated in accordance with an image signal is emitted from the laser light source 73, then is deflected by sound energy generated in accordance with a controlling voltage applied to the deflector 72, and scans the fluorescent screen 74 after being reflected from the reflecting mirror 75. The light beams from the displayed image on the fluorescent screen 74 15 are received by the hologram 58, and, as described in the first and second embodiments, are observed by an eye of a user wearing the glasses-type display. According to one finding, it is possible to offer a displayed image that meets as high SVGA specification as that of a SUN's workstation.

[0035]

20 Figs. 17(a) to 17(c) show a glasses-type display of a fourth embodiment of the present invention. Fig. 17(a) shows an attachment 75 incorporating a hologram 58, and if this attachment is attached to a spectacle lens 57a having a degree (corrective lens) that is shown in Fig. 17(b), it is possible to obtain a spectacle lens 57a having a 25 hologram 58 as shown in Fig. 17(c). If this is fitted to a rim (not shown) having an image information source such as a liquid crystal display, it is possible to obtain a glasses-type display as explained earlier.

[0036]

Fig. 18 shows a glasses-type display of a fifth embodiment of the present invention. In this figure, such elements as are found also in Fig. 16 are identified 30 with the same reference symbols, and thus overlapping explanation will be omitted.

variable focal lens 82 is obtained by forming a thin film (not shown) having an electro-optical effect (EO) on the spectacle lens 57a, and by forming transparent electrodes 82a arranged concentrically. By selectively applying a voltage to the electrodes 82a arranged concentrically, it is possible to obtain a variable focal effect
5 using the EO effect. This makes it possible to offer a glasses-type display serving both as glasses for myopia and for presbyopia which requires no manufacturing process applied to ordinary eye glasses.

[0037]

[Advantages of the Invention]

10 As described above, a glasses-type display according to the present invention can be incorporated in glasses by making the constituent units satisfactorily compact. Thereby, the user can wear the display without a feeling of wearing a foreign substance. This glasses-type display can be used as a display for a computer, a prompter, a head-up display used in vehicles or airplanes, a head-mounted display, or the like.
15

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| [Fig. 1] | A diagram illustrating a first embodiment of the present invention. |
| 20 [Fig. 2] | An enlarged fragmentary view of Fig. 1. |
| [Fig. 3] | A diagram illustrating the general manufacturing process of holograms. |
| [Fig. 4] | A diagram illustrating the manufacturing process of a hologram used in the first embodiment. |
| 25 [Fig. 5] | A diagram illustrating a variant example of the first embodiment. |
| [Fig. 6] | A diagram illustrating the relationship between the visibility of outside and the grid interval of interference fringes of a hologram. |
| 30 [Fig. 7] | A diagram illustrating the angles when an observer observes a display. |

[Fig. 8] A diagram illustrating the relationship between a spectacle lens and an observer's eyeball.

[Fig. 9] A diagram illustrating a pair of glasses corresponding to Fig. 1.

5 [Fig. 10] A diagram illustrating a pair of glasses corresponding to Fig. 2.

[Fig. 11] A diagram illustrating the principle of a loupe.

[Fig. 12(a)] A diagram illustrating the condition of a wave surface while recording a point on a hologram.

10 [Fig. 12(b)] A diagram illustrating image reproduction performed by a hologram.

[Fig. 13(a)] A diagram illustrating the manufacturing process of holograms.

[Fig. 13(b)] A diagram illustrating image reproduction performed by a hologram.

15 [Fig. 14] A diagram illustrating a second embodiment of the present invention.

[Fig. 15] A diagram illustrating the manufacturing process of a hologram used in the second embodiment.

[Fig. 16] A diagram illustrating a third embodiment of the present invention.

20 [Fig. 17a] A diagram illustrating a hologram used in a fourth embodiment of the present invention.

[Fig. 17b] A diagram illustrating a spectacle lens used in the fourth embodiment.

[Fig. 17c] A diagram illustrating the fourth embodiment.

25 [Fig. 18] A diagram illustrating a fifth embodiment of the present invention.

[Fig. 19] A diagram illustrating a conventional HMD.

[Fig. 20a] A diagram illustrating a conventional locking-type HMD.

[Fig. 20b] A diagram illustrating a conventional see-through-type HMD.

30 [Fig. 20c] A diagram illustrating a conventional see-through-type HMD.

[Reference Numerals]

- 1 Display
- 2 Pupil
- 3 Eyeball
- 5 7 Rim
- 8 Pad
- 15 Laser
- 16, 19, 24 Mirrors
- 17 Half Mirror
- 10 18, 23 Beams
- 20, 22, 25 Lenses
- 21 Collimator Lens
- 26 Dry Plate
- 30 Convex Lens
- 15 32 Object
- 33 Erected Virtual Image
- 34 Object Point
- 36, 38 Reference Waves
- 40 Emissive Spherical Wave Surface
- 20 40a Point Light Source
- 41 Spherical Wave Surface
- 43 Object
- 44 Monochromatic Light
- 45 Actual Image
- 25 45a Reference Light Source
- 56 Protective Coat
- 57a, 57b Spectacle lenses
- 58 Hologram
- 59 Liquid Crystal Panel
- 30 72 Deflector

- 73 Laser Light Source
- 74 Fluorescence Screen
- 75 Reflecting Mirror
- 82 Variable Focal Lens
- 5 82a Transparent Electrode
- 101 Liquid Crystal Panel
- 102 Signal Line
- 103 Light Source for Backlight
- 104a Concave Lens
- 10 104b Convex Lens
- 105 Mirror
- 106, 108, 116 Light Beams
- 109 Virtual Image
- 110 Case
- 15 112, 117 Free Curved Prisms
- 113, 114 Reflecting Surfaces
- 118a, 118b Light Beams